

**STATE OF VERMONT
AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES**

P A T H

Department of Prevention, Assistance, Transition, and Health Access

BULLETIN NO.: 03-19F

FROM: John Michael Hall, Commissioner
for the Secretary

DATE: January 30, 2004

SUBJECT: Reach Up Standards and Reduced Payment Computation Changes

CHANGES ADOPTED EFFECTIVE 3/1/04

INSTRUCTIONS

X **Maintain Manual - See instructions below.**

 **Proposed Regulation - Retain bulletin
and attachments until you receive
Manual Maintenance Bulletin: _____**

 **Information or Instructions - Retain
until _____**

MANUAL REFERENCE(S):

2245.2 2246
2245.2 P.4

Revision to Reach Up Standards Updates

This rule makes a cost-of-living adjustment to the needs standards used in determining financial assistance benefits for families participating in the Reach Up Program. Under this rule, the percentage of total needs actually paid to the family decreases from 50.1 percent to 49.6 percent.

The changes in the rule are based on changes in the Consumer Price Index applied to Reach Up basic needs standards, the amounts used to calculate benefits for families not living in room-and-board situations, and to the room-and-board standards.

To ensure that expenditures remain within the limits of appropriated funds, the rule decreases the percentage of total needs, based on the updated standards, actually paid to families from 50.1 percent to 49.6 percent. To ensure that no family's benefit is decreased solely because of this standards update, the department made three additional adjustments in the standards for families with three or fewer members.

Specific Changes to Rules Sections

[2245.2](#) Updates the Reach Up basic needs standards.

[2245.24](#) Reduces the Reach Up ratable reduction percentage from 50.1 percent to 49.6 percent.

[2246](#) Updates Reach Up standards for families in room-and-board situations to reflect the changes in the Reach Up basic need standards.

A public hearing was scheduled for December 8, 2003, at 1:00 p.m., in the Planning and Evaluation Division's Blue Room, Dept. of PATH, State Office Complex, Waterbury, Vermont. No one attended the public hearing.

The public was invited to submit written comments on the rule to the department by the end of the business day on December 15, 2003. No written comments were submitted on the proposed rule.

Vertical lines in the left margin indicate significant changes. Dotted lines at the left indicate changes to clarify, rearrange, correct references, etc., without changing regulation content.

Three dots at the bottom of a page after the last line of text and three dots at the top of the following page before the first line of text indicate that text has been moved.

To get more information about the Administrative Procedures Act and the rules applicable to state rulemaking go to the website of the Office of the Vermont Secretary of State at: <http://vermont-archives.org/apa/rules.html> or call Louise Corliss at 828-2863.

For information on upcoming hearings before the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules go to the website of the Vermont Legislature at: <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/schedule/schedule2.cfm> or call 828-5760.

Manual Holders: Please maintain manuals assigned to you by removing and inserting the following pages.

Manual Maintenance

	<u>Remove</u>		<u>Insert</u>
2245.2	(02-25)	2245.2	(03-19)
2245.2 P. 4	(02-25)	2245.2 P.4	(03-19)
2246	(02-25)	2246	(03-19)

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2245.2

2245 Need Standards - Household or Housing Unit

2245.2 Eligibility Standards – Reach Up

The following table contains the combined basic need standards used to determine eligibility for Reach Up. The combined basic standards include food, fuel, utilities, clothing, personal needs and incidentals (e.g., soap, toothpaste, cosmetics, etc.), chore (e.g., snow removal, lawn maintenance, household cleaning supplies, etc.), and special needs (e.g., telephone, life insurance premiums, water, sewer, and municipal assessment costs, fire insurance premiums, household appliances, etc.) required by assistance group members regardless of the total number of individuals residing in the household.

Number in Assistance Group	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9 or more
Basic Needs	\$475	\$680	\$891	\$1064	\$1247	\$1372	\$1589	\$1769	Add \$170 for each additional person

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2245.2 P.4

2245 Need Standards - Household or Housing Unit

2245.2 Eligibility Standards – Reach Up (Continued)

2245.24 Ratable Reduction

Because funding is insufficient to meet 100 percent of the need standard, payment to an eligible Reach Up assistance group is based on a calculation that limits it to 49.6 percent of the group's needs.

The group's Reach Up grant is determined according to the following steps:

- (1) For assistance groups living in a room and board situation, add the standard for other basic needs to the room and board standard (2246). For other assistance groups, add the basic need standard (2245.2), housing allowance (2245.3), and special needs housing allowance (2245.23) together.
- (2) Multiply the result in step 1 by 49.6 percent.
- (3) Subtract income countable for Reach Up from the result in step 2.
- (4) Round the result in step 3 down to the nearest whole dollar.

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2246 Room and Board

Room and board as a living arrangement for Reach Up participants shall be budgeted in the amounts established by the table below. Additional amounts are allowed for other basic needs, which include clothing, personal needs and incidentals, chore, and special needs.

Number in Assistance Group	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9 or more
Room and Board	\$379	\$547	\$725	\$853	\$1008	\$1098	\$1265	\$1403	Add \$138 for each additional person
Other Basic Needs	\$96	\$133	\$166	\$211	\$239	\$274	\$324	\$366	Add \$32 for each additional person

The total budgeted requirement (room and board standard plus other basic needs standard) is subject to the ratable reduction.

Payments for Reach Up children who qualify for Reach Up foster care shall be provided by the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services through Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, as amended.